

Amelanchier canadensis (Serviceberry)

Shadblow serviceberry is a large, deciduous, early-flowering, fragrant shrub or small tree in the rose family that is native to eastern North America and is found in the coastal and Piedmont areas of North Carolina. It is an understory tree, often found growing in clumps in swamps, bogs, lowlands, and thickets and it grows 15- to 25-ft. tall. It is one of

the first shrubs to flower in the spring (before it leafs out), just before dogwoods.

Common names include Canadian Serviceberry, Eastern Serviceberry, Juneberry, Serviceberry, Shadblow Serviceberry, Shadbush, Shadbush Serviceberry

It acquired the common name *serviceberry* because it blooms as soon as the ground starts to thaw, when people were able to dig graves and bury their dead after winter. It also derives the common names *shadbush* and *shadblow* from the fact that the masses of flowers tend to open at the same time that shad ascend the rivers to spawn in early spring. Its wood is used to make fishing rods.

This tree prefers part shade and moist, well-drained sandy loam, but it is adaptable to both wet and dry sites and various soil types. It is somewhat clay tolerant. As an understory tree, it will grow in full sun but appreciates afternoon shade especially in the south, and it will require moister soil. It is somewhat tolerant of salt but not of urban conditions.

It is a host plant for the Red-Spotted Purple and Viceroy

butterflies. Songbirds and both small and large mammals eat the fruits. It is moderately deer resistant.

Amelanchier has three seasons of interest. Purple berry-like drupes follow blossoms and are attractive to wildlife and edible by humans. In fall the leaves turn showy red and orange. It is a good small tree to use as a specimen or in small groups as well as in naturalized or woodland sites or pollinator gardens. It can also be used along lakes, streams, ponds or other wet sites.



Cultivars / Varieties:

'Prince William' -- an 8- to 12-ft. multi-stemmed shrub; not a tree. Large, abundant berries resemble blueberries.

'Pyramidalis' -- green late into fall. To 30-ft. tall by 12-ft. wide.

'Rainbow Pillar' -- dense, usable as a hedge. Nice fall color.

'Spring Glory' -- heavy flower production. Orange fall color.

It has no serious insect, disease, or other plant problems. Rust, leaf spot, blight, and powdery mildew can occur. Insects include the sawfly, leaf miner, borers and scale. The flowers, and later fruits, dropping on the ground can require high maintenance.

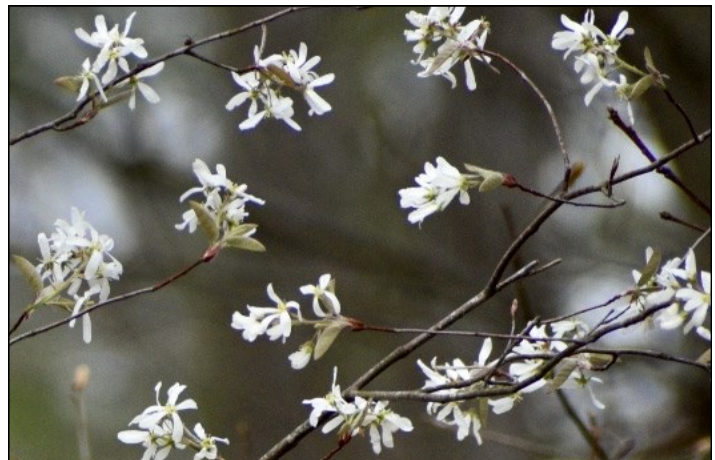


PHOTO CREDITS: TOP LEFT: Close up of flower Borealis55 [Public Domain Mark 1.0](#). LEFT: Flowering shrub Rachel James [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#). ABOVE: Flowers Cathy Dewitt [CC BY 4.0](#)

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For more information on gardening in Brunswick County, please call the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Office, 910.253.2610.

SOURCES:

[Amelanchier canadensis \(Canadian Serviceberry, Eastern Serviceberry, Juneberry, Serviceberry, Shadblow serviceberry, Shadbush, Shadbush Serviceberry\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

[Amelanchier \(Common Serviceberry, Downy Serviceberry, Juneberry, Saskatoon, Serviceberry, Shadblow, Shadbush, Sugarplum\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](#)